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**For Immediate Release:**

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

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### SAFETY MAINTENANCE WORK IN GILMER AND PICKENS

JASPER, Ga. – Georgia DOT Maintenance crews will begin today to replace the obliterated and damaged reflective raised pavement markers on State Route (SR) 2 in Gilmer County and SR 53 in Pickens County. Work will proceed daily Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. It will force pacing traffic on these two highways. This maintenance operation and the lane closures it necessitates are weather permitting and subject to change.

Georgia DOT maintains over 2000 lane-miles in Northwest Georgia. Relatively harsh winter and snowplows used to clear the region's interstates and state routes from snow and ice present a challenge to the DOT crews who are charged with maintaining lane markers on the roads. These crews follow Federal Highway Administration standards for markings and do their best to keep up. They also work almost continuously restriping faded markers and replacing missing reflective raised pavement markers. Still, the volume of traffic on the highways, snow removal in the winter and sunny summer all weigh heavily on the durability of the lane markers.

*Each day, hundreds of Georgia Department of Transportation employees and contractors work on dozens of highway, bridge and intersection improvements throughout the state. Their work often brings them and heavy machinery in close proximity to travel lanes. Fifty-seven Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors' workers have been killed in highway work zone accidents since 1973. Please help us prevent these tragedies by slowing down; being especially attentive and cautious as you pass through construction work zones; and always driving responsibly. Safer Driving; Safer Work Zones; For Everyone. For information on the Department of Transportation, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>. You also may follow us on ([www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNW>).*